

PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE DIVISION[645]

Adopted and Filed

Pursuant to the authority of Iowa Code section 147.76, the Iowa Board of Physical and Occupational Therapy hereby amends Chapter 200, “Licensure of Physical Therapists and Physical Therapist Assistants,” and Chapter 206, “Licensure of Occupational Therapists and Occupational Therapy Assistants,” Iowa Administrative Code.

These amendments update the Board’s Web site address, add the Web site address to apply online, revise the requirements for an incomplete application, revise the requirements for foreign-trained applicants, change one of the requirements for endorsement applicants, remove the requirement for a notarized copy of a diploma for occupational therapy licensure, and remove the option to practice as an occupational therapy applicant prior to licensure.

Notice of Intended Action was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on August 2, 2017, as **ARC 3221C**. A public hearing was held on August 22, 2017, from 8 to 8:30 a.m. in the Fifth Floor Board Conference Room 526, Lucas State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa. No public comments were received on the proposed amendments. These amendments are identical to those published under Notice.

These amendments were adopted by the Iowa Board of Physical and Occupational Therapy on October 9, 2017.

After analysis and review of this rule making, no impact on jobs has been found.

These amendments are intended to implement Iowa Code chapters 147, 148A, 148B, and 272C.

These amendments will become effective on December 13, 2017.

The following amendments are adopted.

ITEM 1. Amend subrule 200.2(1) as follows:

200.2(1) The applicant shall complete a board-approved application ~~packet~~. Application forms may be obtained from the board’s Web site (~~<http://www.idph.state.ia.us/licensure>~~) (www.idph.iowa.gov/licensure) or directly from the board office, or the applicant may complete the application online at ibplicense.iowa.gov. All paper applications shall be sent to the Board of Physical and Occupational Therapy, Professional Licensure Division, Fifth Floor, Lucas State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0075.

ITEM 2. Rescind subrule 200.2(8) and adopt the following **new** subrule in lieu thereof:

200.2(8) Submitting complete application materials. An application for a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant license will be considered active for two years from the date the application is received. If the applicant does not submit all materials within this time period or if the applicant does not meet the requirements for the license, the application shall be considered incomplete. An applicant whose application is filed incomplete must submit a new application, supporting materials, and the application fee. The board shall destroy incomplete applications after two years.

ITEM 3. Rescind subparagraphs **200.5(1)“a”(1)** and **(2)**.

ITEM 4. Amend paragraph **200.5(2)“a”** as follows:

a. Submit an English translation and an equivalency evaluation of their educational credentials through the following organization: Foreign Credentialing Commission on Physical Therapy, Inc., 124 West Street South, Third Floor, Alexandria, VA 22314; telephone (703)684-8406; Web site www.fccpt.org. The credentials of a foreign-educated physical therapist or foreign-educated physical therapist assistant licensure applicant who does not hold a license in another state or territory of the United States and is applying for licensure by taking the examination should be evaluated using the most current version of the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT) Coursework Tool (CWT). The credentials of a foreign-educated physical therapist or physical therapist assistant who has been a licensed PT or PTA under the laws of another jurisdiction should be evaluated using the version of the FSBPT CWT that covers the date the applicant graduated from the applicant’s respective

physical therapist or physical therapist assistant education program. ~~A credentialing agency should use the version for the CWT that coincides with the professional educational criteria that were in effect on the date the applicant graduated from the applicant's respective physical therapy education program. This same process should be used for first-time licensees and for those seeking licensure through endorsement.~~ The professional curriculum must be equivalent to the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education standards. An applicant shall bear the expense of the curriculum evaluation.

ITEM 5. Amend paragraph **200.7(2)“d”** as follows:

d. Have successfully passed the examination within a period of ~~one year~~ two years from the date of examination to the time application is completed for licensure.

ITEM 6. Amend rule 645—206.2(147) as follows:

645—206.2(147) Requirements for licensure. The following criteria shall apply to licensure:

206.2(1) The applicant shall complete a board-approved application ~~packet~~. Application forms may be obtained from the board's Web site (~~<http://www.idph.state.ia.us/licensure>~~) (www.idph.iowa.gov/licensure) or directly from the board office, ~~or the applicant may complete the application online at ibplicense.iowa.gov.~~ All paper applications shall be sent to the Board of Physical and Occupational Therapy, Professional Licensure Division, Fifth Floor, Lucas State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0075.

206.2(2) The applicant shall complete the application form according to the instructions contained in the application. If the application is not completed according to the instructions, the application will not be reviewed by the board.

206.2(3) Each application shall be accompanied by the appropriate fees payable by check or money order to the Board of Physical and Occupational Therapy. The fees are nonrefundable.

206.2(4) No application will be considered by the board until official copies of academic transcripts sent directly from the school to the board have been received by the board.

~~**206.2(5)** The applicant shall provide a notarized copy of the certificate or diploma indicating the degree awarded to the applicant, if the degree is not indicated on the official transcript.~~

~~**206.2(6)**~~ **206.2(5)** The licensure examination score shall be sent directly from the examination service to the board to confirm a passing score on the examination.

~~**206.2(7)**~~ **206.2(6)** Licensees who were issued their initial licenses within six months prior to the renewal date shall not be required to renew their licenses until the renewal date two years later.

206.2(7) Submitting complete application materials. An application for an occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant license will be considered active for two years from the date the application is received. If the applicant does not submit all materials within this time period or if the applicant does not meet the requirements for the license, the application shall be considered incomplete. An applicant whose application is filed incomplete must submit a new application, supporting materials, and the application fee. The board shall destroy incomplete applications after two years.

~~**206.2(8)** Incomplete applications that have been on file in the board office for more than two years shall be:~~

~~*a.*—Considered invalid and shall be destroyed; or~~

~~*b.*—Maintained upon written request of the candidate. The candidate is responsible for requesting that the file be maintained.~~

ITEM 7. Rescind and reserve rule **645—206.4(147)**.

ITEM 8. Amend rule 645—206.5(147) as follows:

645—206.5(147) Practice of occupational therapy limited permit holders and endorsement applicants prior to licensure.

206.5(1) Occupational therapist limited permit holders ~~and endorsement applicants working prior to licensure~~ may:

a. and *b.* No change.

206.5(2) Occupational therapy assistants; and limited permit holders ~~and endorsement applicants~~ ~~working prior to licensure~~ shall:

a. and *b.* No change.

ITEM 9. Amend rule 645—206.9(147) as follows:

645—206.9(147) Licensure by endorsement. An applicant who has been a licensed occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant under the laws of another jurisdiction shall file an application for licensure by endorsement with the board office. The board may receive by endorsement any applicant from the District of Columbia, another state, territory, province or foreign country who:

1. to 6. No change.

7. Shows evidence of one of the following:

- Completion of 30 hours for an occupational therapist and 15 hours for an occupational therapy assistant of board-approved continuing education during the immediately preceding two-year period;
- The practice of occupational therapy for a minimum of 2,080 hours during the immediately preceding two-year period as a licensed occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant;
- Serving as a full-time equivalent faculty member teaching occupational therapy in an accredited school of occupational therapy for at least one of the immediately preceding two years; or
- Successfully passing the examination within a period of ~~one year~~ two years from the date of examination to the time application is completed for licensure.

Individuals who were issued their licenses by endorsement within six months of the license renewal date will not be required to renew their licenses until the next renewal two years later.

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